COMMUNION BY EXTENSION IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHERN INDIANA

Purpose is to:

1. Sustain the witness and Eucharistic charism of Episcopal congregations when the frequency of the presence of a priest to celebrate the Eucharist is not regular.
2. Develop a fuller understanding in the congregation about the Eucharist and the difference between celebrating Eucharist and receiving Communion.
3. Deepen a congregation's link to and understanding of the priesthood.
4. Engage a conversation about other aspects of priesthood (besides sacramental) that are missing from the life of a congregation that does not have a priest in residence or visiting on a regular basis.

GUIDELINES:

1. Prayer for sending the consecrated bread and wine and the **Designated Eucharistic Visitor (DEV)** (trained by priest or deacon and licensed by Bishop) who will offer them to the receiving faith community (said following post-communion prayer):

   Priest: In the name of this congregation, we send forth *Name.* bearing these holy gifts, that the people of … (*Name of faith community receiving the consecrated elements*) may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

   All: We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

2. Before the service begins, the sacrament is placed on a corporal on a credence table in front of the altar, covered with a white linen (but not a burse and veil). The Designated Eucharistic Visitor sits in the congregation during Morning Prayer and does not vest.
3. A **Worship Leader (WL)** leads Morning Prayer from a stall in the choir, or from some other convenient place in front of the congregation. A **Preacher** offers a homily following the second reading or between the Prayer for Mission and General Thanksgiving.
4. Alms are appropriately collected during the hymn or anthem that follows the prayer for mission and precedes the intercessions and General Thanksgiving.
5. When Morning Prayer is concluded the Worship Leader and Lay Preacher sit with the Congregation.
6. Following the conclusion of Morning Prayer, the Designated Eucharistic Visitor moves to the consecrated elements on the Credence table in front of the altar. From the congregational side of the altar, she/he places the consecrated bread on a paten or in a ciborium (if not already done) and pours the consecrated wine into a chalice. Both should be placed on a corporal which has been spread. The lavabo is not used, and the Designated Eucharistic Visitor should not go to the usual place of the priest.

Amended on 14 December 2023 with gratitude to the Dioceses of Ohio and Iowa

7. The Designated Eucharistic Visitor stands in front of the altar facing the people and:

   DEV: The Lord be with you.

   All: And also with you.
   DEV: Let us pray.

   Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

   We remember before you those who celebrated the Eucharist at … (*here naming the sending faith community at which the elements were consecrated)* with whom we now share in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

   All: We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

8. The Designated Eucharistic Visitor receives Communion before administering to the **Eucharistic Minister**, and the congregation.
9. Note: If **Eucharistic Visitors** are being sent out from the congregation to visit shut-ins or those in the hospital, then the consecrated bread and wine for this should be placed in the Communion kits before distributing the elements to the congregation.
10. When all have received the Sacrament, any remaining elements should be placed on the credence table, covered by a white linen cloth for the remainder of the service. [Following the service, the remaining elements should either be consumed or reverently scattered (bread) or poured down the piscina (wine).]
11. A hymn is sung.
12. Eucharistic Visitors, if any, receive the Communion kits and are dismissed with this prayer of sending out.

    All: In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you may go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

13. The service concludes with this post communion prayer and dismissal:

    All: Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

    WL: Let us bless the Lord.
    All: Thanks be to God.

14. A Recessional Hymn may be sung.